

**April 18, 2001**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **CORRECTION TO EPA'S FINAL AIR TOXICS RULE FOR PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTION**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a minor technical correction to its toxic air pollutant emissions rule for the Pulp and Paper industry. The Pulp and Paper rule was published in the Federal Register on April 15, 1998.
- ! Today's action will correct an error in the instructions and also correct typographic errors in the December 22, 2000, final rule amendments to EPA's 1998 air emissions rule for the Pulp and Paper industry.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE CORRECTION**

- ! On December 22, 2000, (65 FR 80755), EPA issued final rule amendments to the Pulp and Paper NESHAP. In the final rule text EPA incorrectly referenced two subparagraphs. Section 63.457(l)(1) incorrectly referenced §63.446(e)(2)(i). The correct reference is §63.446(e)(2) and (3). Section 63.457(l)(2) incorrectly referenced §63.446(e)(2)(ii) and (iii). The correct reference is §63.446(e)(2) and (4), or §63.446(e)(2) and (5).

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health problems.
- ! In 1998, EPA issued rules and guidelines to reduce and prevent air and water discharges from pulp and paper mills. The air rules issued as part of that package are expected to reduce air toxics emissions from pulp and paper production by approximately 60 percent -- or 155,000 tons annually. The water rules issued in that package are expected to result in a 91 percent reduction in dioxin/furan discharges to water and an 82 percent reduction in chloroform discharges.
- ! The Pulp and Paper rule requires pulp and paper mills to capture and control emissions of air toxics that occur at vents throughout the pulping process.

- ! Pulping processes generally are classified as chemical, mechanical or semi-chemical.
- < In chemical pulping, wood is cooked in a “digester” at elevated pressure with a solution of chemicals that dissolves the lignin (the “glue” that holds wood together) and leaves behind the cellulose (the fibrous material used to make pulp and paper). A variety of air toxics are emitted during the cooking process.
  - < In mechanical pulping, a grinder is used to physically separate fibers. Semi-chemical pulping combines the chemical and mechanical methods. Wood chips are partially cooked with chemicals, and the remainder of the pulping is accomplished mechanically.
  - < After the wood is pulped, it is washed to remove the dissolved lignin and chemicals. In the washing process, the pulp is passed through a series of large washers and screens. This process occurs at high temperatures which generates exhaust gases containing air toxics.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! To download this technical correction from EPA's web site on the World Wide Web, go to the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html> .
- ! For additional information, contact Stephen Shedd of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone at (919) 541-5397 or by e-mail at [shedd.steve@epa.gov](mailto:shedd.steve@epa.gov). Or visit the pulp and paper air toxics website at the following address:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/pulp/pulppg.html>.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: [www.epa.gov/oar/](http://www.epa.gov/oar/).